GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6291
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013
CHECK ON SMUGGLING OF SANDALWOOD
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether indiscriminate cutting and smuggling of sandalwood is going on in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total geographical area having sandalwood trees particularly in the above two States ten years ago and as of now; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop such illegal sandalwood smuggling in these States?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a)& (b) As per the information received from the States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka there are no reports of indiscriminate cutting and smuggling of sandalwood in the country.

(c) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun conducts biennial survey of forest and tree cover in the country using satellite data which is published in the India State of Forest Report. However no specific survey of geographical area having sandalwood trees is conducted. The geographical area under forest cover State/UT wise as per the India State of Forest Report 2011 is given in annexure.

(d) The Ministry implements a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Intensification of Forest Management Scheme" under which funds are released to States/UTs to supplement their efforts in forest protection. In addition, various States /UTs under their respective Plan schemes provide funds for forest protection. Under Joint Forest Management programme forests are being protected with people's participation.